B O R O U G H O F T O T N E S

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1970

PRESENTED BY

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Municipal Borough of Totnes

Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1970

P r e f a c e

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the Borough Council:-

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of the District drawn up in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/71 dated January, 1971. Included in the Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General estimated the population to be 5,700 persons, an increase of 60 over the previous year.

A total of 81 births gave a Standardised Rate of 16.9 per thousand which is above the National Rate of 16.0. There were 118 deaths giving a Standardised Rate of 11.2 per thousand which is less than the National Rate of 11.7. There was one infant death. As in former years diseases of the heart and circulation caused most deaths (54%) and cancer caused 14% of deaths and respiratory diseases 6% There was only one death from influenza.

Infectious Diseases

Streptoccal Infection Ten people all suffering from cellulitis (an infection of the tissues under the skin) due to haemolytic streptococci Type A had been in contact with a carrier who had a streptococcal sore throat due to the same organism. This individual received treatment for the sore throat, and no more cases of cross infection occurred.

Food Poisoning In February three persons in a family were ill with diarrhoea and vomiting after eating a deep frozen chicken which had been improperly cooked. It had been cooked one day and allowed to go cold and been re-heated two days later. Heat resistant clostridium welchii organisms were recovered from two of the three patients, but, strangely enough, not from scraps of chicken which were sampled. It is most important that deep frozen chickens should be thoroughly thawed out before cooking so that the heat of cooking penetrates into the depths of the meat on the carcase. It is advisable not to re-heat cold meat (poultry or butchers meat) except possibly in thin slices which would allow heat penetration of the meat to occur.

I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their support during the year.

John Wildman
Medical Officer of Health

July, 1971.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman was Alderman W. C. Bennett and the Vice-Chairman was Councillor Mrs. L. Jones. Also on the Committee were the Mayor and six other members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

John Wildman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond.)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mary E. Budding, M.B.,B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

P. R. Bramley, M.A.P.H.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. M. Maycock, M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTOR

J. Greenwood

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Mrs. S. Bridges

LOCAL OFFICE

Municipal Offices,
Fore Street,
TOTNES. TQ 9 5QJ.

Telephone No. Totnes 3532

M.O.H. CENTRAL OFFICE

Area No. 5, South West Devon,
Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
8, Plymbridge Road,
Plympton,
PLYMOUTH. PL7 4LG.

Telephone No. Plymouth 36644

M.O.H. CLERK

Miss G. Prowse

Telephone No. Plymouth 36644

SECTION 'A'

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970

Table 1

Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Totnes Municipal Borough

5,700	(5,640)	
Natural increase or decrease	- 37	(-41)
Migration in or out	+ 97	(+51)
Total increase or decrease	+ 60	(+10)
Population at 1961 Census	5,502	

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Totnes Municipal Borough in Acres	1,421	
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books on 1.4.70		
2162	(2,096)	
Number of houses per acre	1.521	(1.475)
Number of persons per acre	4.011	(3.971)
Number of persons per house	2.636	(2.691)
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	605	
Rateable Value of District	£232,153	(£222,603)
Sum represented by a penny rate	£931	(£895)

SECTION 'A'

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1970

Table 2

Figures for 1969 are shown in brackets

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.9	(13.3)
Area Comparability Factor for births	1.19	(0.82)

Number of Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Total	46	35	81
Legitimate	44	29	73
Illegitimate	2	6	8
Number of Still Births	0	1	1

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.2	(10.9)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.54	(0.59)

Number of Deaths		Males	Females	Total
All Ages	Total	58	60	118
Death of Infants under 1 year		1	0	1
Number under 4 weeks of age		1	0	1
Number under 1 week of age		1	0	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	12.0	(16.0)

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate	16.0	(16.3)	Death Rate	11.7	(11.9)
Infantile Mortality Rate (Infants under 1 year of age)				18.0	(18.0)

CAUSES OF DEATH 1970

	Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	0	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	1	2
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	2	6
B19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
B19(10)	Leukaemia	1	0	1
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	3	5
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	0	1
B46(5)	Other diseases of Nervous System	0	1	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	11	15	26
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	4	8	12
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	11	12	23
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	0	1
B31	Influenza	0	1	1
B32	Pneumonia	3	0	3
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	1	2
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	0	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	0	1
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	0	2
B46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-urinary System	2	0	2
B43	Birth injury, Difficult labour, etc.	1	0	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined conditions	6	12	18
BE48	All other accidents	1	2	3
BE49	Suicide and Self-inflicted injuries	1	0	1
Total all causes	.. ..	58	60	118

SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town, The Totnes and District Hospital is a general practitioner hospital and has 24 beds. Broomborough Hospital has 135 beds for chronic cases. It has a maternity wing with 13 beds and cots; this unit serves a wide area outside the town.

2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services, and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders, and the after care of such persons.

Two district nurse/midwives work in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held on the first, third and fifth Monday in the month at the Borough Park Clinic, and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The Home Help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has been made available for the handicapped, the aged, and expectant mothers. The ambulance service is operated by voluntary organisations. A "meals on wheels" service is provided by the W. R. V. S.

3. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water, and ice-cream, are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by Public Analysts at Exeter.

4. Home Help Service

The Home Help Organiser has an office at The Family Welfare Centre, Pomeroy House, Bridgetown, Totnes, telephone No. Totnes 3665. The demand for this service is ever increasing and provides essential domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity. It is not free, but those unable to pay the full charges are assessed according to their means.

SECTION 'C'

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: Cases Notified During 1970

Table 1

DISEASE	TOTAL	Age Group in Years: Under 1	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	Over 65
Measles	6	1	2	3	0	0	0
Infective Jaundice	6	0	1	2	2	1	0
Tuberculosis (lungs)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Food Poisoning	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table II

DISEASE	TOTAL	Incidence by Quarters: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Measles	6	1	2	3	0
Infective Jaundice	6	0	6	0	0
Tuberculosis (lungs)	1	0	0	1	0
Food Poisoning	1	1	0	0	0

INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated by the Public Health Department during the year of 1970 as follows:-

Smallpox 145 Cholera 50

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention. No burials took place under Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

As the Housing Act 1969 became more widely known many applications and enquiries concerning Improvement Grants were made. Misleading statements in the press and on television caused a number of people to believe that grant could be obtained towards carrying out repair work alone and improvements of any kind. Probably as much time was spent in explaining the Act as in dealing with applications.

The Act is a good one in that it provides a simpler and more flexible system and in assisting towards repair work as well, brings about improvements of a higher quality. The main emphasis of the Act and what the Government intended was however for Local Authorities to direct their efforts to improvement of whole areas; not simply the houses in the areas but also the environment as well - providing play place, planting trees, regulating traffic, providing parking spaces. This environmental improvement can do as much for people living in the houses as improvements to the houses themselves and for this reason the Government pays a contribution towards the expenditure of a local authority in respect of works of this nature in Improvement Areas. With an easing of the staffing position in the Department it will be possible to take a more purposeful look at house improvements generally in 1971.

Further increases in the number of pigs presented for inspection often made it necessary for all Inspectors to be engaged on this work to the exclusion of all else. Towards the end of the year, the Council agreed to appoint a further meat inspector. This decision was welcomed with considerable satisfaction as it will enable inspection to be carried out in an efficient manner once again and for other work to receive the attention it deserves.

The day-to-day work of inspecting the District could not receive proper attention during the year. This is unfortunate for it is well known that in the absence of regular visit and inspection standards do not improve and even begin to decline. Fortunately, no very alarming complaints were received or contraventions found.

The general lack of care in handling, storing and preparing food in a number of businesses continues to give concern. Unsuitability of premises, inadequacy of equipment and lack of training of food handlers are all contributory factors.

It seems incredible that in present times any person may open up a food business or change the scope and nature of such a business be it factory, shop market or bazaar stall without reference to the public health authority. Very rarely is an approach made to the Department beforehand to enquire whether or not that which is proposed will be acceptable and in consequence the standard provided often leaves much to be desired.

Prior notification of changes in existing food businesses or the establishment of new ones should be obligatory. Local Authorities should have the duty of keeping a register of food premises and the power to refuse or cancel registration where a satisfactory minimum standard is not achieved.

SECTION 'D'

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLIES

(a) (i) Satisfactory in quality.

(ii) Satisfactory in quantity.

(b) Private supply to seven dwellings - Satisfactory

(c)	No. dwellings served:-	(i) direct	2,162
		(ii) standpipes	nil
	Population served:-	(i) direct	5,700
(d)	Fluoride content	negligible	

2. REFUSE COLLECTION

Weekly kerbside collection	"Ramillies 25" vehicle driver and three men.
Bulk collection	Free on request by householders.
Trade refuse	Collection weekly or twice weekly charged at 50p. per bin (or equivalent) per six months.
Disposal	Crude tipping. Weekly levelling and covering with available material. No private disposal facilities.
Private collections	£2.50 per hour.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Report of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor

The facilities installed in 1967 as a remedial measure until such time as the main sewerage and sewage disposal schemes come to fruition, continue to be the only method of treatment available for the time being. Obviously the problems in obtaining a satisfactory standard of effluent are still just as bad or, if anything, worse. Some modifications to the temporary system of sewage treatment have been carried out although at the close of the period of time to which this report relates they have not been brought into use because they are dependant upon an improved electricity supply and the South Western Electricity Board have yet to instal a new transformer.

4. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Properties Other than Sewers	Type of Property: Non Agricultural	Type of Property: Agricultural
1. No. properties in district	2879	10
2. (a) Total No. properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	104	-
(b) No. infested by (i) rats	23	-
(ii) mice	5	-
3. (a) Total No. properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	208	10
(b) No. infested by (i) rats	46	-
(ii) mice	6	-

4. Sewers The annual test baiting of the sewers showed one or two minor infestations. These were cleared in subsequent treatment.

5. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the town.

6. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Class of premises	Premises newly Regd. during 1970	Total No. of Regd. premises at end of 1970	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during 1970
Offices	2	29	14
Retail Shops	2	74	28
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	8	6
Fuel storage depots	-	2	-
TOTAL	6	115	49

No. of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises:- 95

7. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Failure to register	4
Failure to display an Abstract of the Act	1
Absence of supply of hot water	3
Insufficient means of space heating	1
Absence of thermometer	3
Absence of first aid materials	4
Absence of satisfactory hand washing facilities ..	2
Failure to provide refreshment facilities	1
Defects of repair	8
Absence of soap, towel etc.	3
Absence of provision for outdoor clothing	2

8. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts

Housing - Standard of fitness	82
Improvement Grant enquiries & work in progress ..	436
L.A. housing management	221

Public Health Acts

Complaints and nuisances - including dirty and defective premises, defective and obstructed drainage offensive accumulations, inadequate refuse accommodation, noise abatement and insect pests ..	137
Refuse Collection and disposal	134
Water sampling	10
Infectious Diseases	8

Food and Drugs Act

Unsound food and food complaints	51
Meat Inspection	339
Food Premises	29
Street Traders and Market Stalls	1
Food Poisoning	5

Inspections under the:

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act ..	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act ..	95
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	125
Petroleum Regulations	8
Civic Amenities Act (Abandoned vehicles) ..	24
Scrap Metal Dealers Act	5
Factories Act	4
Pet Animals Act	7
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	11

9. INFORMAL NOTICES

Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations 1960 ..	4
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960	33
Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958	2
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	46
Civic Amenities Act 1967	3
Public Health Act 1936	16
Public Health Act 1961	1
Petroleum Regulations 1928 and 1936	1
Housing Act 1957	5
Meat Inspection Regulations 1963	1
Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959	1
Food and Drugs Act 1955	7
Clean Air Act 1956	1
Agriculture(Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act 1956	4

10. FORMAL NOTICES

Public Health Act 1936 Section 83 (Dirty Premises) ..	1
Public Health Act 1936 Section 93 (Abatement of Nuisance) ..	1
Public Health Act 1961 Section 26 (Abatement of Nuisance) ..	1
Housing Act 1957/69 (Repairs to property)	1

11. LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS

Slaughtermen	21
Slaughterhouse	2
Petroleum Storage	11
Pet Animals	3
Animal Boarding Establishments	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	2
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	36
Manufacture or sale of sausages etc.	9

SECTION 'E'

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. TYPE OF FOOD PREMISE

TYPE OF FOOD PREMISE	NO.	PREMISES INSPECTED
Grocery and general provisions	18	3
Butchers	8	2
Greengrocers	5	-
Fishmongers	1	-
Fried fish	2	1
Confectioners	10	2
Public Houses and hotels	17	-
Restaurants	15	15
Bakehouses	2	2
School and industrial canteens	3	-
Food Factories	4	-
Slaughterhouses	2	4

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Killed and Inspected	43	285	72,042
No. whole carcases condemned (except T.B. and Cysticercosis)	-	-	517
Weight of offal condemned (lbs.)	266	72	77,462
Weight of carcase meat condemned (lbs.)	-	-	111,179
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	74	20,086
% affected with disease	50.7	24.4	28.6
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	-	-	1,270
% affected with disease	-	-	1.7
Cysticercosis No. of whole carcases condemned	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-
% affected with disease	-	-	-

3. OTHER FOODS

During the year of 1970, the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

72 lbs. ham	10 lbs. tinned fruit
34 lbs. veal	528 lbs. frozen foods (refrigerator failure)

4. MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS

No work was undertaken in this connection.

5. POULTRY INSPECTION

No work of this kind was undertaken.

Number of poultry processing premises within the district - Nil.

6. DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with the Meat (Sterilization) Regulations 1969to processors of animal by-products.

Tinned goods are disposed of by burial.

SECTION 'F'

HOUSING

1. UNFIT HOUSES

Action taken in respect of Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings demolished	8
No. of dwellings closed or in respect of which undertakings were given	6
No. of persons displaced from unfit houses ..	8
No. of dwellings previously closed and made fit during the year	6
Other houses made fit as a result of formal or informal action	2
No. of properties unfit and requiring action (approx.)	58

2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Improvement Grants

(a)	No. of properties in respect of which grants were approved	19
(b)	Amount of grant approved	£10,619
(c)	Amount of grant paid	£7,808

Standard Grants

(a)	No. of properties in respect of which grants were approved	8
(b)	Amount of grant approved	£1,220
(c)	Amount of grant paid	£737

APPENDIX 'A'

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970, FOR THE BOROUGH OF TOTNES IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961 Part I of the Act

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7, is enforced by the Local Authority	52	4	-	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	52	4	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:- nil

No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted:- nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Section 133)

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
nil	nil	nil	nil

(Section 134)

No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
nil	nil	nil